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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2/A
9/30/00
m. Prudgen

In re application of)
LE NOANE et al.) Art Unit :
From PCT Appln FR01/01895)
Serial No. (not yet assigned))
Filed:) Examiner :

FOR : OPTICAL CABLE WITH CONTINUOUS ACCESSIBILITY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir :

Before examination, kindly amend this application
in accordance with the following particulars :

IN THE SPECIFICATION :

Please introduce the following titles in :

- Page 1, line 3 : FIELD OF THE INVENTION
- Page 1, line 11 : BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
- Page 3, line 32 : OBJECTS AND DESCRIPTION OF
THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS :

Please delete without prejudice claims 1 to 12 and substitute therefor new claims 13 to 31 :

-- 13. An optical cable with continuous accessibility (1), comprising a closed protective sheath (6) surrounding a cavity (5) having in cross section two substantially perpendicular axes intersecting at the center of the cavity, and at least two optical fibers (3) arranged such that they occupy the greater part of the cavity along one axis but that they allow a clearance along the other axis of the cavity.

14. The cable as claimed in claim 13, wherein the fibers are organized in at least two optical modules (2) each one comprising at least one fiber surrounded by a thin film (4).

15. The cable as claimed in claim 13, wherein the fibers or modules are positioned lengthwise in the cable.

16. The cable as claimed in claim 13, wherein one axis is longer than the other.

17. The cable as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fibers or modules occupy the greater part of the long axis.

18. The cable as claimed in claim 13, wherein the cavity has a shape selected in the group consisting of circular, oval and ovalized shapes.

19. The cable as claimed in claim 18, wherein the cavity has an ovalized shape.

21. The cable as claimed in claim 20, wherein the sheath has an ovalized shape.

22. The cable as claimed in claim 20, wherein the long axis of the sheath coincides with the long axis of the cavity.

23. The cable as claimed in claim 13, comprising further a jacket (11) around the sheath.

24. The cable as claimed in claim 13, wherein the sheath has at least one colored thread (8a, 8b).

25. The cable as claimed in claim 13, wherein the sheath has at least one initiator (9a, 9b).

10 26. The cable as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least one initiator is colored (10a, 10b).

27. The cable as claimed in claim 13, wherein the sheath has a region of lower thickness.

28. The cable as claimed in claim 23, wherein the jacket has at least one colored thread (8a, 8b).

✓ 29. The cable as claimed in claim 23, wherein the jacket has at least one initiator (9a, 9b).

30. The cable as claimed in claim 29, wherein at least one initiator is colored (10a, 10b).

31. The cable as claimed in claim 23, wherein the
jacket has a region of lower thickness. --

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER MARBURY RUDNICK & WOLFE

Date:

February 21, 2002

By:

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